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## Charlottesville Picked for Pilot Energy Program



**Finding cheap solutions starts with an energy audit that tests things like air flow and gas leaks.**

**Charlottesville is setting the national example for green home inspections. The federal government has picked the city for a pilot energy efficiency program, and, if all goes well it will serve as the model for the entire country.**

**The Charlottesville Albemarle [Local Energy Alliance Program \(LEAP\)](#) will be responsible for reporting back to the Department of Energy (DOE) on how well their scoring system works. They hope these new numbers will help more homeowners save energy and money.**

**Finding cheap solutions starts with an energy audit that tests things like air flow and gas leaks. Charlottesville will soon pilot a new energy efficiency scoring system for the DOE.**

**Key Green Energy Solution Home Energy Auditor Laura Fiori said, "Anything that we can do to quantify the situation in a home helps homeowners make a decision about what they want to do to improve their energy efficiency."**

**LEAP is heading up this national test run. LEAP Executive Director Cynthia Adams said, "I think that the DOE looked at that and said 'well, you know if we want a strong partner with strong partnerships, LEAP is probably a good program to go with.'"**

**The real estate industry is still figuring out how much boosting the energy efficiency of a home can boost its value. However, eco-brokers say buyers are more likely to take a closer look at environmentally-friendly houses.**

**Eco-broker certified Realtor Rosa Nicolosi said, "We're in a position as realtors to make some change to be more environmentally responsible and also be there for my clients in a very practical way."**

**And a new score will offer more information and more options to homeowners. Adams said, "What this home energy score is doing is simpler, quicker and therefore less expensive for the homeowner."**

**Fixes can be thousands of dollars, and testing for DOE scores won't start for another month.**

**Reported by Dannika Lewis**

[View the video here.](#)